WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus that
communicates with a terminal connected to a network by
using an HTTP protocol and performs processes requested
by the terminal, the information processing apparatus
comprising;

a cookie information setting part for setting
a predetermined string, as cookie information, in an
HTTP response corresponding to a first HTTP request
sent from the terminal; and

a cookie information determining part for
determining whether a second HTTP request includes the
predetermined string as cookie information, wherein the
second HTTP request is sent from the terminal after the
first HTTP request is sent and indicates a start of a
session between the terminal and the information
processing apparatus.

2. The information processing apparatus as
claimed in claim 1, wherein, when the cookie

information determining part determines that the second

HTTP request does not include the predetermined string,

the information processing apparatus does not keep a

memory area for storing information on any session

5　between the terminal and the information processing

apparatus.

10

3. The information processing apparatus as

claimed in claim 1, wherein, when the cookie

information determining part determines that the second

15　HTTP request does not include the predetermined string,

the information processing apparatus does not include

session identification information in an HTTP response

that is a response for the second HTTP request, wherein

the session identification information is information

20　for identifying a session between the terminal and the

information processing apparatus.

25

4. The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein, when the cookie information determining part determines that the second HTTP request does not include the predetermined string,

5 the information processing apparatus sends, to the terminal, a Web page for requesting to enable a cookie function in the terminal as a response to the second HTTP request.

10

5. The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein, when the cookie

15 information determining part determines that the second HTTP request includes the predetermined string, the information processing apparatus sends, to the terminal, an HTTP response including session identification information identifying a session between the terminal

20 and the information processing apparatus as a response to the second HTTP request.

25

6. The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information processing apparatus is an image forming apparatus.

5

7. An information processing apparatus comprising:

10   a communication control part for controlling communications by using an HTTP protocol between the information processing apparatus and a terminal connected to a network;

         a process execution part for executing a

15 process corresponding to an HTTP request from the terminal received by the communication control part; and

         a cookie information determining part for determining whether an HTTP request includes a

20 predetermined string as cookie information, wherein the HTTP request indicates a start of a session between the information processing apparatus and the terminal;

         wherein the process execution part sets a predetermined string in an HTTP response as cookie

25 information, wherein the HTTP response is sent to the

terminal in response to an HTTP request sent from the terminal before the HTTP request that indicates the start of the session.

5

8. The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein, when the cookie

10 information determining part determines that the HTTP request that indicates the start of the session does not include the predetermined string, the information processing apparatus does not keep a memory area for storing information on any session between the terminal

15 and the information processing apparatus.

20 9. An information processing apparatus comprising:

a communication control part for controlling communications by using an HTTP protocol between the information processing apparatus and a terminal

25 connected to a network;

a process execution part for executing a process corresponding to an HTTP request from the terminal received by the communication control part; and

5   a cookie information determining part for determining whether an HTTP request includes a predetermined string as cookie information, wherein the HTTP request indicates a start of a session between the information processing apparatus and the terminal;

10   wherein the communication control part sets a predetermined string in an HTTP response as cookie information, wherein the HTTP response is sent to the terminal in response to an HTTP request sent from the terminal before the HTTP request that indicates the

15   start of the session.

20   10. The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the information processing apparatus includes a plurality of process execution parts, and the communication control part sets the predetermined string in an HTTP response by any of the

25   plurality of process execution parts as cookie

information.

5

11. The information processing apparatus as
claimed in claim 10, wherein, when the cookie
information determining part determines that the HTTP
request that indicates the start of the session does
10   not include the predetermined string, the information
processing apparatus does not keep a memory area for
storing information on any session between the terminal
and the information processing apparatus.

15

12. A session management method used in an
information processing apparatus that communicates with
20   a terminal connected to a network by using an HTTP
protocol and performs processes requested by the
terminal, the session management method comprising:
        a cookie information setting step of setting
a predetermined string, as cookie information, in an
25   HTTP response corresponding to a first HTTP request

sent from the terminal; and

a cookie information determining step of determining whether a second HTTP request includes the predetermined string as cookie information, wherein the

5   second HTTP request is sent from the terminal after the first HTTP request is sent and indicates a start of a session between the terminal and the information processing apparatus.

10

13. The session management method as claimed in claim 12, wherein, when the information processing

15   apparatus determines that the second HTTP request does not include the predetermined string in the cookie information determining step, the information processing apparatus does not keep a memory area for storing information on any session between the terminal

20   and the information processing apparatus.

25

14. The session management method as claimed in claim 12, wherein, when the information processing apparatus determines that the second HTTP request does not include the predetermined string in the cookie

5   information determining step, the information processing apparatus does not include session identification information in an HTTP response that is a response for the second HTTP request, wherein the session identification information is information for

10   identifying a session between the terminal and the information processing apparatus.

15

15. The session management method as claimed in claim 12, wherein, when the information processing apparatus determines that the second HTTP request does not include the predetermined string in the cookie

20   information determining step, the information processing apparatus sends, to the terminal, a Web page for requesting to enable a cookie function in the terminal as a response to the second HTTP request.

25

16. The session management method as claimed in claim 12, wherein, when the information processing apparatus determines that the second HTTP request includes the predetermined string in the cookie information determining step, the information processing apparatus sends, to the terminal, an HTTP response including session identification information identifying a session between the terminal and the information processing apparatus as a response to the second HTTP request.

17. The session management method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the information processing apparatus is an image forming apparatus.